



CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

CONCEPT

Credit for Prior Learning: Granting college equivalency credit, certification, or advanced standing toward further education/training for learning that occurred outside traditional academic environments ([CAEL](#)).

INSIGHT

Credit for prior learning strategies increase Alamo Colleges' capacity to connect to new learner populations and grow enrollment.

THE ALAMO COLLEGES STORY

OPPORTUNITY AGGREGATE ALL TYPES OF LEARNING

For Alamo Colleges to be successful in serving adult learners, we have to better aggregate learning from experience. We know that as the field of postsecondary education and training expands, aggregators of learning from experience will gain students over those who opt not to convert learning into credit. This requires establishing a stronger commitment and plan to aggregate learning using credit for prior learning.

Benefits of Credit for Prior Learning:

- Leaner validation
- More on-ramps
- Clearer pathways
- Increased enrollment
- Reduced time and cost to credential
- Increased credential earning rates

PIVOT CONSIDER HOW TO IMPLEMENT CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Colleges within the Alamo Colleges District are beginning to think through how to capture various types of credit for prior learning and what infrastructure, policies, and procedures will be needed to support this expansion. Faculty and College leadership will be essential partners in this work. [CAEL](#) provides guidance (see list below) on the different kinds of learning that can count.

Types of Credit for Prior Learning:

- Work experience
- Professional training
- Military training
- Open-source learning
- Other independent study
- ACE and NCCRS
- AP and IB exams
- Standardized exams (CLEP, DSST military exams, UExcel exams)
- Challenge or departmental exams
- Institutional review of external training, licenses, or certifications

IMPLEMENTATION METHODS	EXAMPLES
Non-credit to credit program alignment (credit matrices, articulation agreements, equivalency agreements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLCC equivalency agreements • BPCC credit matrix
Credit crosswalks/articulation agreements for industry certification, work-based learning, and employer/ CBO training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NVCC crosswalk • Florida articulation agreements • NRAEF restaurant apprenticeship • MCRC blog, 1st report, 2nd report
ACE transcripts for industry and employer trainings – accept full credit recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google IT Support Specialist • ACE military guide
Professional learning evaluation of employer training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUNY Empire State evaluation model
Prior learning assessment of experiential learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicolet College Many Ways of Knowing

HOW TO IMPLEMENT CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

1. Review additional resources below.
2. Determine purpose, goals, priority areas, and target populations.
3. Identify current offerings, processes, and gaps.
4. Engage faculty and College leadership continuously.
5. Decide on approach to implementation.
6. Create an implementation plan.
7. Develop policies and procedures to ensure standardization.
8. Make options clear, visible, and accessible to learners.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Implementation Matrix](#), American Council on Education
- [Resource Kits](#), Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
- [A More Unified Community College](#), Education Strategy Group
- [The Business Model Behind 'Recognition of Non-Institutional Learning'](#), rpk Group
- [Incremental Credentialing Framework](#), Credential As You Go



ALAMO
COLLEGES
DISTRICT

LEARN MORE. CONTACT US TODAY.

Luke Dowden, Ed.D.

Chief Online Learning Officer
& Associate Vice Chancellor

210.485.0163 • ldowden1@alamo.edu